

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 6, 2007/9:00 A.M.

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at the Wadena County Courthouse in the Commissioners Room at 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Bill Stearns and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Present: Commissioners Orville Meyer, Dave Schermerhorn, Mary Harrison, and Lane Waldahl.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the Agenda as presented, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the February 22, 2007, and February 27, 2007 Board Meeting minutes as presented, and motion carried.

Karen Nelson, Public Health Director, came before the Board requesting approval of an appointment to the Public Health Advisory Committee

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the appointment of Robert Allebach, District 5, to the Public Health Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective January 1, 2007, motion carried.

Commissioner Waldahl requested Ms. Nelson update the Board on the Peterson-Biddick building.

Ms. Nelson informed the Board that she had requested a "second opinion" inspector to accompany her while inspecting the building and he had documented little or no evidence of rodent activity.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Meyer, to approve the following PERA Resolution for Troy Wangsness, Part-time Deputy Sheriff, motion carried:

Police Officer Declaration

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, of Wadena County hereby declares that the position titled part-time deputy, currently held by **Troy S. Wangsness**, POST Board License # 84324, meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;
3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest, and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WADENA**

I, Charleen West, clerk of County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct transcript of the resolution that was adopted at a meeting held on the 6th day of March, 2007 ; the original of which is on file in this office. I further certify that five members voted in favor of this resolution and that five members were present and voting.

Signed: _____
Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

Date: March 6, 2007 .

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Harrison, to approve the payment of Administrative Leave for County employees that were scheduled to work during the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2007, and 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on March 2, 2007, when the County Offices were closed due to inclement weather that would have affected employee safety, motion carried.

The Board tabled action on the County Recorder's request for a 2007 Budget Amendment until the March 22, 2007 Board Meeting, when the Recorder would be available.

Chairman Stearns recommended to the Board that a four County Board Meeting be held with Todd, Otter Tail, and Stearns County to address the Perham Resource Recovery Project. He informed the Board that a 1.8 million dollar grant had been applied for from the Solid Waste PCA Fund for another waste burner and that the Fergus Falls incinerator had closed. He also stated that either Stearns County or Ottertail County would have to supply the additional garbage for the Incinerator expansion. He added that he felt it would be important for all Commissioners to receive information on the details.

Commissioners Meyer and Waldahl questioned what the County's liability would be?

Chairman Stearns responded that there has been discussion on refinancing the entire project. He stated that Wadena County currently was responsible for 19% of the debt, however it could be reduced to 15% if Stearns County became involved. Chairman Stearns added that the Perham Resource Recovery Center had \$750,000 in savings that was designated for debt payments if the situation would arise that revenues were not sufficient to make debt payments, and that these funds could not be used for operating expenses. He stated that a decision on whether to expansion or not had to be made due to the funds already committed from the previous years bonding bill. Chairman Stearns distributed a balance sheet for the facility.

Commissioner Harrison questioned as to how risky the expansion was and whether it was more beneficial for the County to have a smaller percentage of a larger loan versus a larger percentage on a smaller loan?

The Board agreed that the holding of a Joint County Board Meeting was needed prior to making a decision on the expansion of the Perham Resource Recovery Center.

Joel Ulring, Highway Engineer, came before the Board to inform them that Ken Hoeschen, who had been hired to perform a review of Wadena County's State Aid Needs, presented the following findings:

- 1) Road design standards are driven by traffic volumes. Therefore, it is important for the County to designate its higher volume roads as State Aid routes.
- 2) Make sure we have proper design standards applied appropriately to road segments based on traffic volumes and need.
- 3) Get our banked mileage put on the system to draw needs. We currently have 0.67 miles available.
- 4) If work is done on State Aid system using local funds, be sure to get credit for local effort.

Mr. Ulring pointed out that Wadena County was found to be in good shape, however, the County could realize an increase in the annual State Aid apportionment by making some changes.

Commissioner Meyer stated that a cooperative road project had been done with Todd County 8 to 10 years ago on Hwy. 55 and questioned whether Wadena County ever received the .38 of a mile from Todd County. He also questioned how Wadena County compared with other counties in regards to banked mileage?

Mr. Ulring stated that he did not have an answer, but would obtain the information.

Mr. Ulring noted that the incorrect vendor name was shown for the diesel fuel supplier in the bids awarded during the February 22nd Board Meeting. He stated that Stoneman Oil should have been listed instead of Leaf River Ag Service, that the mistake was discovered the afternoon of February 22nd and corrected that day.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the correction in vendor from Leaf River Ag Service to Stoneman Oil for the diesel fuel supplier bid award on February 22, 2007, as reflected in the February 22, 2007 Board minutes, motion carried.

Mr. Ulring informed the Board that he had received three applications for the Senior Technician position that was currently vacant. He stated that he will be conducting interviews and bring a recommendation to the Board on April 3, 2007.

Mr. Ulring presented a road construction update and reviewed the following projects for 2007:

<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
CSAH 50	SAP 80-650-009	City of Wadena	Mill & Overlay	May – June
CSAH 23	SP 80-623-14	CSAH 31 to N Co Line	Reconstruction	Late Summer-Fall
CSAH 8	MP 608	Red Eye River Bridge to TH 71	Maintenance Overlay	Summer
CSAH 16	MP 616	½ Mi. to ¾ Mi W of TH 71	Light Wt Fill & Overlay	Summer
CSAH 29	MP 629	US Hwy 10 to ½ Mi North	Maintenance Overlay	Summer
Various	N/A	Various	Maintenance Patching	Summer

Mr. Ulring informed the Board he had been reviewing the overall operation of the Highway Department. He stated that he had spoken to the City of Staples about the possibility of housing a plow truck at their new public works garage. Mr. Ulring pointed out that he was not asking for action that day, but if everything proceeded favorably, he would return with a request to close the Verndale Shop.

Mr. Ulring reviewed policies for current Highway Department activities that would better assist him in his management of the Department. He pointed out that the two policies being considered at this time are in regards to mailbox supports and commodity sales. He stated that the biggest change would be the addition of a 10% handling fee, which would need to be included during the Fee Public Hearing. Mr. Ulring provided the Board with draft copies of his proposals for their consideration and possible adoption at a later date.

Mr. Ulring informed the Board that he had met with Kay Browne, Partners Representative, regarding the Depot Restoration Project. He stated that, since the previous bids were rejected, Partners has revised the Project and will request another bid date in April or May.

The Board questioned Mr. Ulring as to the function of the Region 5 Transportation Committee, how this process would be completed if there was not a Regional Commission and whether it would make a difference in Wadena County’s federal funding for roads if they did not have Region 5?

Mr. Ulring informed the Board of the function of the Region 5 Transportation Committee, that Area Transportation Partnerships would take over the function and that he did not feel it would make a difference in funding for Wadena County between the two organizations. He stated that the Region 5 Transportation Committee was a subgroup of the ATP and that his experience with the Region 5 Committee was that it was very good in the transportation area. He also stated that

Wadena County has come out ahead and that the allocation has been more than fair.

Commissioner Meyer questioned Mr. Ulring as to whether the Region 5 Transportation Committee benefited Wadena County.

Mr. Ulring commented “yes”. He added that the County also has the ability to use Region 5 for planning purposes.

Board recessed at 10:00 a.m.

Board reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

Paul Friedrich, Trail Breakers Snowmobile Club, came before the Board to request approval to receive the 2nd benchmark of the first half of the grooming season allocation.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Meyer, to approve the “Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program Maintenance and Grooming Certification of Satisfactory Grooming” Application for the Trail Breakers Snowmobile Club in the amount of \$9,576., motion carried.

Motion by Schermerhorn, seconded by Meyer, to approve a correction of the dollar amount reported to the Board during the February 22, 2007 for payment to Pederson & Pederson Law Office in the amount of \$2,908.96, which should have been \$2,181.72, due to the miscalculation of prorated days of service, motion carried.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Waldahl, to approve the payment of expenses pertaining to the Sheriff ‘s Sally Port Improvement Project to be made from General Fund Department #112, motion carried.

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Schermerhorn, to approve the payment of \$3,200.00 to the Wadena County Historical Society for their full 2007 allocation, per their request, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Harrison, to approve payment of the Board of Commissioners bills in the amount of \$182,922.15, motion carried.

Commissioner’s Reports:

Commissioner Meyer South County Health Alliance – next Monday probably finalize office in Brainerd.
 Community Corrections
 MN Counties Insurance Trust Meeting at Tri County Hospital
 Thursday, March 8, 2007

Commissioner Schermerhorn Region 5 Development Commission

Commissioner Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District
Old Wadena Meeting

Motion by Waldahl, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting at 10:47 a.m., motion carried.

Charleen West, Auditor/Treasurer

William Stearns, Chairman